Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a ring-tune alert in a communication device operable to receive communications via a communication network, said method comprising:

detecting an incoming communication;

determining at least one communication characteristic of the incoming communication;

associating a first ring-tune enhancement with the at least one communication characteristic; and

generating a composite ring-tune alert by appending the first ring tune enhancement to a base ring tune,

wherein the at least one communication characteristic comprises a plurality of communication characteristics and associating a predetermined ring-tune enhancement with each of a plurality of the plurality of communication characteristics,

wherein the first ring-tune enhancement comprises appending a secondary ring-tune to the base ring tune.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of annunciating the enhanced ring tune.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the annunciation is audible.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of initializing a ring-tune database by storing the first ring-tune enhancement and the base ring tune.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the initializing step comprises downloading ring-tune information from an Internet-based server.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 61, wherein the secondary ring-tune is a preamble appended in front of the base ring tune.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first ring-tune enhancement comprises the addition of at least one accompaniment part to the base ring tune.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first ring-tune enhancement comprises application of a tonal adjustment to the base ring tune.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first ring-tune enhancement comprises application of a stylistic adjustment to the base ring tune.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the base ring tone is one of a plurality of base ring tunes selectable for application.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the selection of a base ring tune from the plurality of base ring tunes is a function of the at least one communication characteristic of the incoming communication.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein this step of determining at least one communication characteristic comprises the step of transmitting a request for communication-characteristic information.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of receiving a response to the request for communication-characteristic information.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the response contains communication-characteristic information and further comprising the step of storing the communication-characteristic information for future use in associating ring-tune enhancements with communication characteristics.

16. (Previously Presented) A method for providing a ring-tune alert in a communication device operable to receive communications via a communication network, said method comprising:

detecting an incoming communication;

determining at least one communication characteristic of the incoming communication;

associating a first ring-tune enhancement with the at least one communication characteristic;

generating a composite ring-tune alert by appending the first ring tune enhancement to a base ring tune; and

generating a designated ring-tune alert for indicating the arrival of an incoming communication for which no communication characteristic could be associated with a ring-tune enhancement.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the communication device is a mobile station operable within a wireless communication network.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the communication device is a computer operable to receive communications via a connection to the Internet.

19. (Previously Presented) For use in a mobile station operable in a wireless communication network, an improvement of apparatus for alerting a user to the arrival of an incoming call notification, said apparatus comprising:

a ring-tune database for storing at least one ring-tune enhancement;

a detector for detecting communication characteristics, if any, associated with an incoming call;

a ring-tune controller for associating a detected communication characteristic with the at least one ring tune enhancement stored in the ring-tune database; and

a ring-tune generator for generating an enhanced composite ring tune by appending the at least one ring-tune enhancement to a base ring tune,

wherein the detected communication characteristic comprises a plurality of communication characteristics and wherein the ring-tune generator associates a predetermined ring-tune enhancement with each of a plurality of the plurality of communication characteristics.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the mobile station comprises a vibration generator, and wherein the first ring-tune enhancement comprises the addition of a vibrating effect to the base ring-tune.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the least one ring tune enhancement stored in the ring-tune database comprises a plurality of ring-tune enhancements for associating with communication characteristics.

22. (Previously Presented) A system for use in a wireless communication network having network infrastructure, for alerting a network subscriber to the arrival of an incoming call notification, said system comprising:

at least one mobile station for use by the subscriber;

a base station for handling wireless communications between the at least one mobile station and the network infrastructure;

a ring-tune database assessable to the base station for storing at least one ring-tune enhancement;

a detector for detecting communication characteristics, if any, associated with a network communication directed at the at least one mobile station;

a ring-tune controller for associating a detected communication characteristic with the at least one ring tune enhancement stored in the ring-tune database; and

a ring-tune generator for generating an enhanced composite ring tune including the at least one ring-tune enhancement appended to a base ring tune,

wherein the detected communication characteristic comprises a plurality of communication characteristics and wherein the ring-tune generator associates a predetermined ring-tune enhancement with each of a plurality of communication characteristics.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the ring-tune generator is resident in the at least one mobile station and wherein the ring tune controller is not located in the mobile station, and further comprising means for the ring-tune controller to direct the ring-tune generator, via wireless communication, to generate the enhanced ring tone.

24. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the at least one enhancement is a tempo enhancement.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the system monitors the number of incoming-call notifications from the same source, and wherein the tempo enhancement is a function of the number of unsuccessful call attempts made by the same source.

26. (Previously Presented) A computer program product for providing a ring-tune alert in a communication device operable to receive communications via a communication network, said computer program product comprising a computer-usable storage medium having computer-readable program code portions stored therein, the computer-readable program code portions comprising:

a first executable code portion for detecting an incoming communication;

a second executable code portion for determining at least one communication characteristic of the incoming communication;

a third executable code portion for associating a first ring-tune enhancement with the at least one communication characteristic; and

a fourth executable code portion for generating a composite ring-tune alert by appending the first ring tune enhancement to a base ring tune,

wherein the at least one communication characteristic comprises a plurality of communication characteristics, and further comprising a fifth executable code portion for associating a predetermined ring-tune enhancement with each of a plurality of the plurality of communication characteristics.

27. (Original) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the communication device is a mobile station operable within a wireless communication network.

28. (Original) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the communication device is a computer operable to receive communications via a connection to the Internet.

29. (Original) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the first ring-tune enhancement comprises appending a secondary ring tune to the base ring tune.

30. (Original) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the first ring-tune enhancement comprises application of a tonal adjustment to the base ring tune.

31. (Original) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the first ring-tune enhancement comprises the addition of at least one accompaniment part the base ring tune.

32. (Original) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the first ring-tune enhancement comprises application of a stylistic adjustment to the base ring tune.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the base ring tune comprises a plurality of base ring tunes, and wherein the first ring tune is only appended to a first base ring tune among the plurality of base ring tunes which are periodically rung.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the composite ring-tune comprises inserting the first ring tune into the base ring tune, the base ring tune being divided into a plurality of pieces.

36. (Previously Presented) A method for providing a ring-tune alert in a communication device operable to receive communications via a communication network, said method comprising:

detecting an incoming communication;

determining at least one communication characteristic of the incoming communication;

associating a first ring-tune enhancement with the at least one communication characteristic; and

generating a composite ring-tune alert by appending the first ring tune enhancement to a base ring tune, and

wherein the base ring tune comprises a plurality of ring tunes, and wherein the first ring tune is appended periodically to the plurality of base ring tunes after a predetermined number of rings.

37. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the detector detects the communication characteristics by querying a user of a terminal to provide additional information relating to a previously received incoming call.

38. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the base ring tune comprises a plurality of base ring tunes, and wherein the at least one ring-tune is only appended to a first base ring tune among the plurality of base ring tunes which are periodically rung.

39. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the enhanced composite ring tune comprises inserting the at least one ring-tune into the base ring tune, the base ring tune being divided into a plurality of pieces.

40. (Previously Presented) For use in a mobile station operable in a wireless communication network, an improvement of apparatus for alerting a user to the arrival of an incoming call notification, said apparatus comprising:

a ring-tune database for storing at least one ring-tune enhancement;

a detector for detecting communication characteristics, if any, associated with an incoming call;

a ring-tune controller for associating a detected communication characteristic with the at least one ring tune enhancement stored in the ring-tune database; and

a ring-tune generator for generating an enhanced composite ring tune by appending the at least one ring-tune enhancement to a base ring tune, and

wherein the base ring tune comprises a plurality of ring tunes, and wherein the at least one ring-tune is appended periodically to the plurality of base ring tunes after a predetermined number of rings.

41. (Previously presented) The system of claim 22, wherein the base ring tune comprises a plurality of base ring tunes, and wherein the at least one ring-tune is only appended to a first base ring tune among the plurality of base ring tunes which are periodically rung.

42. (Previously presented) The system of claim 22, wherein the enhanced composite ring tune comprises inserting the at least one ring-tune into the base ring tune, the base ring tune being divided into a plurality of pieces.

43. (Previously presented) The system of claim 22, wherein the base ring tune comprises a plurality of ring tunes, and wherein the at least one ring-tune is appended periodically to the plurality of base ring tunes after a predetermined number of rings.

44. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the base ring tune comprises a plurality of base ring tunes, and wherein the first ring tune is only appended to a first base ring tune among the plurality of base ring tunes which are periodically rung.

45. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the composite ring-tune comprises inserting the first ring tune into the base ring tune, the base ring tune being divided into a plurality of pieces.

46. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the base ring tune comprises a plurality of ring tunes, and wherein the first ring tune is appended periodically to the plurality of base ring tunes after a predetermined number of rings.